THE MINSITER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) It has been decided to undertake Pre-feasibility studies for construction of high speed passenger corridors.

(b) Introduction of High Speed Train with speeds of 250 Kilometre per hour (kmph) and above require separate dedicated infrastructure including tracks, rolling stock etc. Such trains cannot be introduced on the existing network of the Indian Railways.

(c) The specific sector on which such trains would run has not been decided. Pre-feasibility studies will be undertaken for construction of one dedicated high speed passenger corridor each in the Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern regions of the country.

(d) Such train services would be planned for maximum passenger utilization.

Shrinking of wetlands

†*278. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that wetlands such as lakes, ponds and wet areas in the country especially in the metro cities are shrinking rapidly;

(b) If so, whether Government have formulated any specific action plan to control it;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) The details of expenditure made by Government for the development of wetlands, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Wetlands such as lakes, ponds and wet areas in the country are shrinking in size due to anthropogenic pressures, uncontrolled siltation, weed infestation, discharge of sewage, and industrial effluents, surface run-off, chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

(b) and (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 94 wetlands in the country covering 24 states for conservation and management under National Wetland Conservation Programme. The activities for which 100% assistance is given include survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, desilting & dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development weed control, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, education & awareness and community participation. Reserach organizations are also assisted for Research & Development activities to supplement Management Action Plans.

National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) is also operational for conservation and management of urban lakes under which 45 lakes/tanks have been identified covering 12 States.

(d) An amount of Rs. 50.75 crores has been provided for conservation of identified wetlands till date. During IXth and Xth plan, an amount of Rs. 12.93 crores and Rs. 30.69 crores have been released respectively to various State Governments for conservation and management for identified wetlands under National Wetland Conservation Programme.

An amount of Rs. 157 crores has also been released for conservation and management of 45 identified lakes under NLCP.

The details of funds released state wise under National Wetland Conservation Programme and NLCP are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of expenditure made by Government for development of wetlands/Lakes State wise:

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	National Wetland Conservation Programme	National Lake Conservation Plan
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	70.895	82.10
2	Assam	311.77	
3	Bihar	31.34	
4	Gujarat	222.25	

1	2	3	4
5	Haryana	0	
6	Himachal Pradesh	433.43	
7	Jammu & Kashmir	477.855	7154.15
8	Jharkhand	0	
9	Karnataka	107.25	2240.14
10	Kerala	187.532	429.80
11	Madhya Pradesh	30.00	58.00
12	Maharashtra	0	719.82
13	Manipur	707.82	
14	Mizoram	25.42	
15	Orissa	783.29	21.31
16	Punjab	404.585	
17	Rajasthan	247.45	1500.00
18	Sikkim	0	
19	Tamil Nadu	177.06	373.23
20	Tripura	75.00	50.00
21	Uttar Pradesh	48.67	
22	Uttaranchal	42.4	2661.70
23	W. Bengal	406.345	400.00
24	Chandigarh (UT)	0	
	R&D activities/ General	285.46	13.66
	TOTAL:	5075.822	15703.88